UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/524
9 October 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

Fiftieth session
Agenda items 70 and 71

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 6 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement issued on 9 September 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus concerning the resumption of nuclear testing by France at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the accompanying statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 70 and 71.

(Signed) Alyaksandr SYCHOU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Belarus
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 9 September 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

The general public in the Republic of Belarus is deeply concerned about the recent nuclear test conducted by France at Mururoa atoll.

Unfortunately, it must be noted that neither the consensus reached in May 1995 to extend indefinitely the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nor the moratorium on nuclear tests declared by the major nuclear-weapon States has had any effect on this decision to conduct nuclear tests. Whatever their ultimate objectives, nuclear tests arouse the justifiable protest of the international community, jeopardize the successful finalization of the comprehensive test-ban treaty and thereby further delay the achievement of the ultimate goal of the elimination of the nuclear threat.

The Republic of Belarus has voluntarily and unconditionally renounced possession of nuclear weapons, and has learned from its own experience with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant of the dreadful consequences of radioactive contamination. We are convinced that the declaration of a moratorium on nuclear tests by all nuclear-weapon States would be a key factor in strengthening international peace and security.